

Tennessee Middle School Health Survey

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG USE AMONG 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

**A Summary of Findings from the Tennessee Middle School Health Survey
Conducted by the Community Health Research Group at The University of
Tennessee, Knoxville and Sponsored by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Services, Tennessee Department of Health¹**

PART I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Tennessee Middle School Health Survey was conducted by the Community Health Research Group (CHRG) at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2002. The Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (TDH-BADA), sponsored the survey to assess alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use prevalence and to evaluate risk and protective factors for alcohol and drug use, abuse, and problems among the universe of students in grades 6 through 8 in public schools in Tennessee's 14 health planning regions. These data will support the state in applying for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant and in identifying cross-cutting issues related to risk and protective factors for drug use, abuse, and problems among students across Tennessee Department of Health planning regions. The information gathered in this survey will assist the state in allocating resources and planning prevention initiatives, tailoring planning to the needs of the state and of the specific health department regions. When planners have identified these issues, they will be better able to set the goals and objectives for a statewide prevention plan. This study will complement the Social Indicators Study and Community Resource Assessment Study also undertaken in Tennessee in determining and designing an optimal prevention resource plan and implementing this plan for the state and each of the health department planning regions.

The results of this study are presented here with analysis by age, gender and race for all students in the statewide sample to assess relationships and correlates of alcohol and other drug use. Descriptive results of the survey are also detailed for the statewide sample as a whole as well as for each of the 13 participating health department regions with Davidson County as the only non-participating region.

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